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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. InterAction: American Council for Voluntary International Action

(General; 1995)

American Council for Voluntary Action (InterAction) is the largest coalition of the United States of America-based international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), focused on the world's poor and most vulnerable people. Collectively, InterAction's 168 members work in every developing country. In September 2006 the incoming President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) launched a strategic planning process to engage the full InterAction membership in goal-setting. At the end of the process, more than one hundred member CEOs had reached consensus on three new goals for Inter-Action: focusing the United States foreign assistance on the world's poor and most vulnerable, using knowledge from the field to influence policy and practice, and working in coalition and forming strategic alliances.

In order to share practices with the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations, and to prepare for the undertaking of specific activities that will advance the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, InterAction has actively participated in the following meetings:

1) The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 3-14 March, 2003, New York: InterAction delegates attended, participated in caucuses and workshops, and lobbied on violence against women and gender and the Millennium Development Goals for the Agreed Conclusions; 1-2 March, 2004, New York: InterAction delegates attended, participated in caucuses and workshops, and lobbied on women peace and security and on the involvement of men and boys in achieving gender equality; 28 February-11 March 2005, New York: InterAction delegates attended, participated in caucuses and workshops, and lobbied for reaffirmation of the Beijing Platform for Action at this ten year review meeting; 27 February-10 March, 2006, New York: InterAction delegates attended, participated in caucuses and workshops, presented a workshop entitled "Gender Mainstreaming in Action: Successes in Enhancing Gender Equality in Africa" (28 Feb; Church Center), and lobbied for gender parity in decision making at all levels.

2) Included articles on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 2003-2006, in InterAction's newsletter "Monday Developments" as follows:

14 April 2003, "United Nations Women's Meeting Deadlocks on Violence", "NGOs Debate MDGS and Fifth World Women's Conference"; 12 April 2004, NGOs Lobby at United Nations Meeting for Women's Equal Participation in Peace Processes and Government Accountability; 28 March 2005, "United Nations Meeting Reaffirms 1995 Women's Conference Goals After the United States Withdraws Abortion Amendment"; and 20 March 2006, "NGOs Mobilize on United Nations Reform and Gender Equality".

InterAction attended the following meetings, presented by United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies:

1) The high-level plenary meeting of the 60th session of the General Assembly (Millennium plus Five Summit), 15 September 2005, New York. InterAction delegates attended and supported strengthened action and resources to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

2) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Washington D.C. offices; regular consultations with representatives.

3) The United States for United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United States for Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United States for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): These organizations are all InterAction members and collaborate on a regular basis with InterAction and our other 168 NGO members.

4) Included United Nations representatives as plenary speakers and workshop presenters at InterAction's annual Forum in Washington, D.C., as follows:

19 May 2003, Shashi Tharoor, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Opening Plenary Keynote Speaker; 17 May 2004, Rudd Lubbers, UNHCR, Opening Plenary Keynote Speaker; 18 May 2004, Kamal Malhotra, UNDP, Senior Advisor on Inclusive Globalization, Panel on Trade and Development—Linkages and Limits; 1 June 2005, Mark Malloch Brown, Chef de Cabinet to the United Nations Secretary General, Opening Plenary Keynote Speaker; 2 June 2005, Arunabha Ghosh, Policy Specialist, Human Development Report Office, UNDP, Panel on Inequalities and Development; and 11 April 2006, Nicolas Coussidis, Head, UNHCR NGO Liaison Unit, Panel on Putting the "Secure" in Food Security for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

As a coalition, InterAction does not have projects of its own in the field. Our 168 members all are carrying out projects and other activities in support of the MDGs. InterAction supports and actively promotes the MDGS through our educational and communications activities, as well as in our advocacy with the United States government. Specifically, we have included the following articles in our newsletter, "Monday Developments," and convened sessions related to the MDGs at our annual Forum, as follows.

1) "*Monday Developments*" newsletter articles related to the MDGs: 9 June, 2003, United Nations Official Highlights Close Partnership Between the United Nations and NGOs; 7 February, 2005, MDG Progress Report Seen as Outline for Next Decade; 14 March, 2005, Attainment of Millennium Goal for Women Requires Action on Priorities Now; 20 June, 2005, Gender Equality as a Driving Force for Achieving the MDGs, Key United Nations Adviser says Push to Meet MDGs — Now or Never, and United Nations Millennium Project Report as Force to Achieve MDGs; 12 September, 2005, MDGs: Fulfilling the Global Partnership for Development; 12 September, 2005, Global Civil Society Joins Together Around World Summit; 14 November, 2005, Institutionalizing Gender Equality as a Force for Global Development.

2) Sessions on the MDGs and United Nations speakers at InterAction's annual Forum in Washington, D.C.:

- Meeting Our Commitments to the MDGs, Panel Presentation, Jeffrey Sachs, Earth Institute Director; Professor, Columbia University; and Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary General, 20 May 2003

- Evaluating Our Work against the MDGs and Other Commitments, Panel, 21 May 2003

- Gender, Poverty, and the Millennium Development Goals Plenary Panel, 19 May 2003, Dr. Santosh Mehrotra, Human Development Report Office, UNDP and Joanne Sandler, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

- Peace, Human Security, and Gender Equality: Moving the International Security Agenda Forward Plenary Panel, 17 May 2004, Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, United Nations Under-Secretary General and High Representative for Least Developed Nations and former United Nations Security Council President

- From Beijing to the Millennium Summit: Gender Equality as a Force for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals Plenary Panel, 1 June 2005

- A Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals Panel, 1 June 2005, John McArthur, Manager, United Nations Millennium Project

- Stepping Up to the Plate: Goal 8, the United States Government, and Civil Society Advocacy, 2 June 2005

- International NGOs and Local Civil Society Organizations: Working Toward the Millennium Development Goals, 3 June 2005

5) InterAction participates vigorously in the humanitarian activities of the Economic and Social Council. As one of three NGO consortia that are permanent invitees to the meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and its Working Group (IASC-WG), InterAction was represented at all of the regular semi-annual and special Principals' meetings during the reporting period and participated actively in the high-level discussions of responses to specific crises as well as thematic issues. InterAction was equally engaged in the scheduled and special meetings of the IASC-WG, bringing its members' experience to bear on issues on the agendas for those sessions. InterAction was deeply engaged in the Humanitarian Reform Process initiated by Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland, providing member feedback on the cluster, Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), and humanitarian coordinator issues. Within the IASC-WG, InterAction played occasional leadership roles co-chairing sub-working groups or task forces focused on security, where InterAction helped organize IASC endorsement for *Saving Lives Together* and in playing a major role in writing and field testing the IASC's *Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings*. InterAction also engaged in a leadership role in the

elaboration of the Global Humanitarian Platform, serving on both the Steering Committee and the Working Level Group.

In addition, InterAction co-hosted with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at the United Nations Secretariat meetings generally held the last Friday of the month during which NGOs and United Nations agencies, along with representatives of the Red Cross Movement, shared information on current natural disasters and complex emergencies. InterAction made available to the United Nations three exhaustive reports it prepared detailing how its members were spending $1.8 billion received from the American people to assist those affected by the December 2004 Tsunami.

InterAction frequently hosted at its headquarters United Nations officials from both their agency headquarters and their foreign posts for exchanges of views on appropriate responses to crises being experienced in the field. Senior United Nations officials who participated in these exchanges included: Mr. Egeland, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Secretary-General's Special Representatives (SGSRs) for Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. InterAction has a particularly intimate relationship with UNHCR, as many of its members are its implementing partners. InterAction fielded delegations to attend the Steering Committee, NGO Consultations, and Executive Committee meetings held each year in Geneva. In its advocacy activities with the United States administration and Congress, InterAction gave a high priority to generous funding for the high-profile crisis in Darfur/Chad and Iraq but also for neglected crises, e.g. those in northern Uganda, the occupied Palestinian territories, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. InterAction frequently pressed the United States Government (USG) to facilitate access by United Nations and other humanitarian officials in areas where the United States had influence, e.g. to southern Lebanon during the Israeli incursions of 2006.

2. Freedom House

(Special; 1995)

I. Introduction

i. Organization's Aims and Purposes

Freedom House is a clear voice for democracy and freedom around the world. Founded in 1941 by Eleanor Roosevelt, Wendell Willkie and other citizens of the United States of America concerned with the mounting threats to peace and democracy, Freedom House has been a strong proponent of democratic values and a steadfast opponent of dictatorships of the far left and the far right.

Freedom House is a leading advocate of the world's young democracies that are coping with the debilitating legacies of tyranny, dictatorship and political repression. The organization conducts an array of advocacy, education, and training initiatives that promote human rights, democracy, the rule of law, independent media, and United States of America's engagement in international affairs.

Finally, Freedom House's annual standard-setting publications draw attention to global trends in democracy, cast a public light upon dictatorships, and are regularly used as references by journalists worldwide, policymakers, nongovernmental organizations, and the United States government.

Freedom House Reports and Publications

a) Freedom of the World is an annual survey on the state of political rights and civil liberties in each of the world's 193 countries. The survey's methodology is based on the Universal Declaration of Human rights. First published in 1972, the publication plays a uniquely influential role in policymaking and intellectual circles, and its findings are used and referenced by government officials, members of Congress, and the press in debates about United States foreign policy and current events. *Freedom in the World* rankings for political rights and civil liberties are used as official criteria by the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a foreign assistance agency of the United States government.

b) Freedom of the Press: A Global Survey of Media Independence covers trends in media freedom in every country in the world. The survey rates the level of press freedom in each country on a numerical basis and provides a brief written summary of the year's main developments. These summaries include information on the legal environment for press freedom, political influences on content, and economic pressures that restrict the operation of independent media.

c) Nations in Transit: Now in its twelfth edition, *Nations in Transit* (NIT) is a comprehensive survey of political reform in the post-Communist world. NIT is used by the State Department of the United States of America in determining foreign assistance priorities, and its findings are widely debated and discussed by the press and government officials, both in the United States of America as well as in the countries examined by the survey.

d) Countries at the Crossroads: This is a survey of governance performance in 60 strategically important countries worldwide that are at a critical crossroads in determining their political future. The survey stresses such issues as the rule of law, official corruption and accountability, and gives recommendations for future developments.

e) How Freedom Is Won: Released in spring 2005, this study examines political transitions since 1972, based on the 32-year time series and narrative data of the *Freedom in the World* survey. The report was published in collaboration with the International Center on Non-Violent Conflict. The study's key findings—that transitions from authoritarian regimes succeed in creating freer societies when broad-based, non-violent civic movements have been a key factor in the transition—have been the source of discussions in a series of conferences in the United States and Europe and have provoked comment in the *Economist* and *Financial Times*.

Freedom House Programs

Freedom House runs an array of programs that support democracy and human rights advocates around the world to strengthen freedom and human rights in their countries.

a) Uzbekistan: Freedom House supports human rights defenders from Uzbekistan through training and networking activities. In 2006, Freedom House brought a delegation of Uzbek human rights defenders to Geneva to meet with Geneva-based NGOs and United Nations representatives in order to prepare them for their submission of an alternative report to present before the Committee against Torture in its 39th session, 5-23 November 2007, when the Uzbek government presented its report.

b) Islamic Republic of Iran/Gozaar Project: In 2006, Freedom House launched the English/Iranian webzine '*Gozaar*' ('transition'), an online magazine focused on the promotion of democracy and human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. *Gozaar* provides space for the exchange of ideas related to the theory and practice of democracy, aims to revitalize public debate on democratic reform in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and stimulates the production of new, original writing on democracy and a prospective democratic transition in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

c) Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Freedom House, along with its Asian and European partners, has remained resolute on continuing to raise awareness of the egregious human rights violations occurring in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The organization held high-profile international conferences in Rome ("Promoting Human Rights and Religious Freedom in North Korea: Where do we go from here?", 12 July 2006), Seoul ("SEOUL SUMMIT: Promoting Human Rights in North Korea," 8-10 December 2005) and Brussels (internationa. platform for human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 22 March 2006) and collaborated with other advocacy groups focused on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In October 2006, Freedom House advocated for and promoted the United States premier of "Yoduk Story," a musical about an infamous political prison camp in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in Bethesda, Maryland (4-6 October) and Los Angeles, California (19-22 October), the United States of America.

d) The American Committee for Peace in the Caucasus (ACPC): This Freedom House project is devoted to protecting the diverse cultures and peoples who are threatened by the spread of violence in the North Caucasus, as a result of the ongoing war in Chechnya, Russian Federation, and outbreaks of violence elsewhere in the region. The Committee seeks to expand the international support networks for human rights defenders and local nongovernmental organizations that are at risk of becoming further isolated from the international community.

II. Contribution of the Organization to the Work of the United Nations

i) Freedom House in Geneva: As a nongovernmental organization accredited to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Freedom House frequently participates in human rights meetings in Geneva. Its activities are inspired by a commitment to the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. During 2003, 2004 and 2005, Freedom House sent delegations to Geneva to attend the 59th, 60th and 61st sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. During these meetings, Freedom House presented the findings of its "Worst of the Worst," a listing of the world's most repressive regimes. The delegation also raised the issue of the persecution of human rights activists in some societies, and met with Commission members, United Nations Special Rapporteurs and government delegates in order to provide them with information on human rights issues.

In 2006, in response to Secretary-General Kofi Annan's stated intention to reform the United Nations' human rights machinery, Freedom House was very engaged in the effort to create a new United Nations Human Rights Council in place of the former Commission on Human Rights. Freedom House advocated for a stronger mechanism for membership in the Council, as well as a structure that would genuinely promote human rights worldwide. In September 2006, Freedom House sent a delegation to Geneva for the Council's second session, which took place during 18 September to 6 October 2006. The group hosted a panel event on 25 September 2006, "Freedom of Association: International Backlash against NGOs, and the Role The United Nations Democracy Caucus Should Play to Defend It," highlighting human rights activists from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Viet Nam, and Algeria, and met with Special Rapporteurs, as well as government delegates.

iii) Community of Democracies (*United Nations Democracy Caucus*): The Community of Democracies is an international coalition of democratic states dedicated to strengthening democratic values and institutions. Freedom House has been actively engaged in the Community of Democracies (CD) process since its official launch in Warsaw, Poland in June 2000, and helped to organize the first nongovernmental forum so that civil society could also participate in the CD process. Together with the Democracy Coalition Project and the Transnational Radical Party of Italy, Freedom House continued to work to strengthen the Community of Democracies process in 2004 - 2006 by conducting individual meetings with representatives of member states, as well as by issuing press releases and reports on the topic. Together with the Transnational Radical Party and the Democracy Coalition Project, Freedom House hosted an off-the-record discussion "Challenges and Priorities Facing the United Nations Democracy Caucus," in New York on 18 September 2006.

3. Fund of Aid for Youth

(Special; 2003)

Introductory statement

Registered under the Ministry of Justice in 1994, according to 10 November 1992 dated "Concerning Public Entities" law of Azerbaijan; The Fund of Aid for Youth (FAY) has been acting according to Azerbaijan's related legislation, international law norms and in line with these regulations. Being a voluntary social community, "The Fund of Aid for Youth" was created with the purpose of meeting moral needs of the youth, getting busy with the education of children's manners, lending physical and moral hand to youngsters and their families who suffered from the war.

Main purposes and objectives

For a better future and in order for the youth to develop morally or strengthen their manners, the Fund of Aid for Youth has been doing its utmost since 1994 by giving material support to the youth, the elderly, handicapped, vulnerable, refugees, internally displaced persons and in general those in great need.

1. Create project and/or programmes useful to the needs of youth, refugees and internally displaced people who suffered from the war which resulted a million Azerbaijanis to flee their homelands.

2. Improve knowledge, computer, language (Arabic, English), accounting skills of the youth.

3. Solve students' problems those in line with accommodation.

4. Develop moral values within youth and as well as the elderly.

5. Launch youth training programmes for both intellectual and professional development of youngsters.

6. Conduct meetings concerning current problems people are facing in educational areas and the way to solve them.

7. Maintain close contacts with international and regional organizations.

8. Launch or support in organizing international and regional level conferences, seminars and etc.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

1. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings:

1) Participation in seminar on "Watch on Narcotics in South Caucasus" organized by United Nations Development Programme in Azerbaijan, European Union and Azerbaijan; 24-26 April 2003, Baku, Azerbaijan.

2) "United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network; UN-NGO-IRENE Azerbaijan and Caspian Region Capacity building Meetings"; the FAY was one of the organizers of that conference, 25-28 November 2004, Baku, Azerbaijan.

3) High Level Consultation and Capacity Building Meeting for the United Nations Non-Governmental Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) in Turkey. Follow-up to Caspian (Caucasian/Central Asia) and Partnership with Balkan Non-Governmental organizations, 28 to 30 September 2005, Bursa, Turkey.

2. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

Technical assistance to implementation of programmes of United Nations and some other specialized agencies, such as giving conference hall to their service including all facilities required for a professional performance throughout the reporting period.

3. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals.

1) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in the following geographical region: Azerbaijan and Pakistan.

Goal 1. Eradicate poverty and hunger/Target 2. Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Actions (contributions on an annual basis during the reporting period):

- Children given assistance and care=1,700
- The number of different types of food aids delivered to the needy=5,665
- People delivered meat packages on Qurban holiday=48,300
- The elderly given aid packages=100
- Aid distributed in health sector=53
- The handicapped given wheelchairs=250
- People daily given (30 days) Ramadan iftars (breaking the Ramadan fast) =850
- Low-income and 20-January martyr families given food aid=637
- Aid given to those suffered from earthquake in Pakistan=United States Dollar 1,545

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education/Target 3. Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of a primary schooling

- Students given education fees=20
- Students given monthly stipends=252
- Schoolchildren given school bags=2,704

2) Activities in Support of Global Principles

At the international level

- Organizer of foundation of Islamic Conference Youth Forum (ICYF) along with NAYORA-National Assembly of Youth Organizations of Azerbaijan and 57 country NGO representatives, 2-4 December 2004, Baki Azerbaijan.
- Participation in Ceremony for Inauguration of the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation Headquarters, 3 September 2006, Istanbul, Turkey.
- Organizer in the training of Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation, "Training of trainers in leadership skills for youth organizations of the Organization of Islamic Conference countries", 15-17 November, 2006, Baki, Azerbaijan.

At the regional level

- Participation in festival "Solidarity Day of World Azerbaijanis", presented Honorary Degree, 25 December 2006, Baki, Azerbaijan.
- Participation in the workshop with "Save the Children", 30-31 May 2006, Baki, Azerbaijan.
- Technical assistance to event for orphan children of Dar Al Ber International Humanitarian Organization of The United Arab Emirates, 14 May 2006, Baki, Azerbaijan.
- Together with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan; Participation in seminar on "Qualification of student self-governance structure in high educational Institutes", 17 April 2006, Baki, Azerbaijan.

4. International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development

(Special; 1995)

PART I. INTRODUCTION

1. Aims and purposes and main course of action:

The International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (Rights & Democracy) is a non-partisan Canadian institution created by an Act of Parliament in 1988. It has a mandate to promote, advocate and defend internationally the democratic and human rights set out in the United Nations International Bill of Human Rights. In cooperation with civil society and governments in Canada and abroad, Rights & Democracy implements and supports programmes to strengthen laws and democratic institutions, principally in developing countries.

Rights & Democracy works at the national, regional and international levels. Its expertise is concentrated on the themes of democratic development, women's rights, the rights of indigenous peoples and economic and social rights. It also addresses several other issues related to its mandate:

the strengthening of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, the defence of civil liberties in the context of the war against terrorism and the impact of religious fundamentalisms on human rights. Rights & Democracy works in the priority countries identified in its strategic plan for 2005-2010. Its priority countries are: Afghanistan, Bolivia, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Myanmar, Sudan and Zimbabwe. Some of these countries are new to our programming, while in others Rights & Democracy has been working for several years. Rights & Democracy also works at the regional level, at the Organization of American States and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and at the international level, where it follows the work of the Human Rights Council and its special mechanisms.

In all cases, Rights & Democracy works with civil society partners, public institutions and international organizations internationally and in Canada.

Rights & Democracy receives most of its funding (approximately 85%) from Canada's Overseas Development Assistance Budget through Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency. Each year, the Chair of the Board of Directors submits a report on the activities of Rights & Democracy to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who tables it in Parliament. The financial accounts and transactions are examined annually by the Auditor General of Canada. Rights & Democracy is a non-profit charitable organization.

ii. Changes since the last quadrennial report

Rights & Democracy's legal basis (the 1988 Act of Parliament) remained the same. The most notable changes that had a significant impact on Rights & Democracy's vision and programming were the launch in 2003 of the Rights & Democracy Student Network, and the launch in 2006 of the Canadian and International Partnerships Initiative. Rights & Democracy also changed the focus of the priority countries where it works. For example, we stopped working in Mexico and Guatemala but initiated programmes and projects in the Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan.

The Rights & Democracy Student Network continues to grow. Now in its fourth year, it has close to 1500 members and some 40 Delegations in Canada and abroad. The Network's goal is to broaden university students' knowledge of human rights and democracy and to develop their capacity for contributing to their attainment. Over 30 projects from Delegations have received Network support over the last year.

The launch in 2006 of the Canadian and International Partnerships Initiative was informed by the fact that the implementation of international human rights and democratic development makes it necessary for like-minded organizations around the world to develop and maintain strategic and complementary links with one another, particularly to coordinate programming objectives and projects in priority countries. Institutional partnerships and annual workplans have been concluded by Rights & Democracy with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the launch of the Canadian campaign on the

Millennium Development Goals under the name "8 Goals for a Better World", Equitas (formerly the Canadian Foundation for Human Rights), the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Commissions (CASHRA), and the North-South Institute (NSI). Rights & Democracy is also part of a number of international coalitions focused on human rights and democratic development.

PART II. CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

a. United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) and Human Rights Council (HRC)

During the period from 2003 to 2006, Rights & Democracy actively participated in United Nations human rights meetings in the areas covered by its programmes. Representatives of Rights & Democracy attended and participated in the 59th (17 March to 25 April 2003), 60th (15 March to 23 April 2004), 61st (14 March to 22 April 2005), and the 62nd (13-27 March 2006) sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. Rights & Democracy also sent representatives to all the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council in 2006 (1st session from 19-30 June 2006, the 2nd session from 18 September to 6 October 2006 and 27-29 November 2006, and the 3rd session from 29 November to 8 December 2006). Information on these sessions and activities was provided by Rights & Democracy to all its partners.

b. Major conferences

In collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' National Institutions Unit, Rights & Democracy co-sponsored, co-organized and sent participants to the 8th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, from 23-27 October 2006.

c. United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations (UNWGIP) and Permanent Forum

During the period from 2003 to 2006, representatives of Rights & Democracy attended and participated in the 21st (21-25 July 2003), 22nd (19-23 July 2004), 23rd (18-22 July 2005), and 24th (30 July to 4 August 2006) sessions of the UNWGIP in Geneva. Rights & Democracy also sent representatives to and participated in the 2nd (12-23 May 2003), 3rd (10-21 May 2004), 4th (16-27 May 2005) and 5th (15-26 May 2006) sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York. Rights & Democracy supported the Untied Nations Draft Declaration on Indigenous Peoples. To help advance the negotiations, Rights & Democracy organized a technical seminar on the Declaration, in collaboration with the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the Grand Council of the Crees, in Montréal from August 10 to 13, 2005. Rights & Democracy also supports the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples Rights that has been adopted by the Human Rights Council on 29 June 2006.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations Bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

a. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

In 2006, Rights & Democracy concluded 3-year partnership with the OHCHR for an amount of CAN$ 200,000 per year. These funds have been allocated to strengthening and organization joint projects with the OHCHR's National Institutions Unit, to support the Rapid Response Unit, and to support the newly launched Human Rights Fellowship Programme for Students from the Least Developed Countries. Rights & Democracy also provided interns to the OHCHR's Resource Mobilization Unit and its National Institutions Unit in 2006. In 2007, we will open an office in Geneva to, *inter alia*, better follow the work of the Human Rights Council.

b. Cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

With the cooperation of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Rights & Democracy organized the *International Expert Seminar on Best practices for the Implementation the Recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people* in Montreal, Canada, on 5-7 October 2006. The report entitled "*Indigenous Rights – The United Nations Special Rapporteur – Experience and challenges*" was scheduled to be published by Rights & Democracy and others in the Winter of 2007.

c. Cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the Violence Against Women

From 2004 to 2006, Rights & Democracy supported the work of Yakın Ertürk, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. This work will continue in the forthcoming years.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, Rights & Democracy initiated in 2006 a Canadian youth campaign under the banner "8 Goals for a Better World" to promote the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The Campaign includes a number of Canadian NGOs active in the field of human rights and focuses on Youth empowerment. Rights & Democracy also organized a conference in Ottawa entitled "Implementing the MDGs: Our Human Rights Obligations" on 8-9 June 2005, which led to the publication of a conference report with the same title.

5. International Longevity Center

(Special; 1999)

PART I. Introduction

Mission and Activities

The International Longevity Center (ILC-USA) is a non-partisan policy, research and education organization whose mission is to help societies address longevity and population aging in positive and productive ways and highlight older people's contributions to their families and society as a whole. The organization is part of a multinational research and education consortium, which includes centers in the United States of America, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Argentina, India, South Africa and the Dominican Republic. These centers work collaboratively to study how increasing life expectancy and proportions of older people impact nations around the world. Establishment of similar centers in more countries is under active consideration now.

To accomplish its mission, the Center carries out a series of activities consisting of interdisciplinary research, educational programs and media briefings in the key areas of health, work, family and multigenerational relations. Further, it fosters advocacy as well as public awareness about the impact of longevity and population ageing on the economy and society.

Significant Organizational Changes

During the past 4 years (2003-2006) the network of centers added International Longevity Centers in India, South Africa, Argentina and the Netherlands significantly extending our network around the world.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

• **International Institute on Ageing – United Nations, May 2006, Malta**. Senior Associate of the ILC served as visiting Professor at the International Short Training Program in Medical Gerontology.

• **Supporting the Functioning of Contributive Elders (SUFFICE), March 2006, Cape Town, South Africa**. An ILC Senior Associate collaborated with the **Albertina and Walter Sisulu Institute of Ageing in Africa** within the Division of Geriatric Medicine, **University of Cape Town** and the **Stroud Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology** within the Mailman School of Public Health at **Columbia University** in New York on this project. The objectives are to highlight the role of older people as caregivers and heads of households in communities ravaged by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa. The project's overall goal is to introduce into the health and social services as well as influential administrative and policy bodies a larger perspective such that the value of services to elders is understood not only as a proper benefit to the elder but also as a benefit to the elder's community of all ages.

• **The Harold Hatch Lecture in Geriatrics and Gerontology, 9 February 2006, New York, United States of America**. The ILC hosted the annual lecture read by Professor Sir Michael Marmot under the title "Why Care? How Status Affects Our Health and Longevity". This lecture's topic, speaker and event were supportive of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goals 1 and 3.

• **Whitehouse Conference on Aging, 10-14 December 2005, Washington D.C, United States of America**. ILC-USA President presented at the closing plenary session of this important decennial event aimed at making aging policy recommendations to the President and Congress of the United States of America, and to assist the public and private sectors in promoting dignity, health, independence and economic security of current and future generations of older persons.

• **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris, France, 8 December 2005**. ILC co-hosted with 21st Century Talks and The Division of Foresight, Philosophy and Human Sciences at UNESCO the "Colloquium: Do Health & Longevity Create Wealth?"

• **The Harold Hatch Lecture in Geriatrics and Gerontology, 2 May 2005, at the Institute Alliance Francaise, Tinker Hall, New York, United States of America**. The ILC hosted the annual lecture read by Bernard Kouchner, M.D. founder of Doctors without Borders, and then French Secretary of State. Dr. Kouchner presented "The Triumph of Survival," discussing the great achievements of public health and medicine over the past century as well as the needs of the current era especially given the realities of the longevity revolution.

Research and publications

What follows is a sample of significant publications in support of the work by the United Nations during the time period covered by this quadrennial report:

2006: Ageism in America; Do Health and Longevity Create Wealth?; Caregiving in America; Alzheimer's: The Disease of the Century

2005: Intergenerational Connections; Volunteer Programs for Older Adult sin the Arts and Humanities; The Aging European Workforce

2004: Thoughts on Population Growth and Productivity; Redesigning Health Care for an Older America: Seven Guiding Principles; The Future of Ageism

2003: Emergency Preparedness for Older People

A full list of publications is available from our website at www.ilcusa.org.